MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MUD CREEK

MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Liberty Church, Jefferson County, Ala.

OCTOBER 19, 20, 21, 1894.

A complete Roll of the Delegates appears in the Tabular Statement at the end of these Minutes.

The next session will be held with Rock Creek Church, commencing on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1895.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.:
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1894.

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TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF THE MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

LIBERTY CHURCH, October 19, 1894.

The Twenty-third Annual Session of the Mud Creek Baptist Association convened with Liberty Church, Friday, October 19, 1894.

The appointee being absent, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder T. P. Vanderver. Services began by singing hymn No. 476 in Baptist Psalmody. Read for meditation the third chapter of I Timothy. After prayer, hymn No. 135 in Class, Choir and Congregation was sung. Text found in first lesson, latter part of sixteenth verse, reads as follows: "God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." Prayer by Elder J. N. McFalls.

Intermission of one hour for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

House was called to order by the former President by reading the 103rd division of Psalms, and singing hymn No. 583 in Baptist Psalmody. Prayer by Elder B. M. Waldrop.

The Moderator then called for letters from the various churches, which were presented and read by Elders J. C. Gilmer and B. M. Waldrop, both from Birmingham Association.

The Association then went into an election for Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Elder A. White, Moderator, and J. V. Salter, Clerk.

The Moderator then called for petitionary letters. One was brought forward, read and received with delegates from Pleasant Springs Church, Walker county, Alabama.

The door was then opened for correspondence. Received the following: W. P. Salter, from Clear Creek Association; J. L. Therman, J. T. Robertson, T. F. Waldrop, E. B. Waldrop, W. R. Iva and B. M. Waldrop, from Birmingham Association.

The Moderator then proceeded to appoint Committees, as follows:

DEVOTION—H. T. Vines, David Short, W. T. Youngblood.

DOCUMENTS—P. S. Hammonds, W. G. Tuggle, F. M. Reed.

NOMINATIONS—J. B. Sanford, A. P. Waldrop, W. G. T. Hood.

FINANCE—W. D. Riley, L. M. Busby, F. M. Vines.

HOME MISSIONS—John Knight, Jesse Cheek, H. M. Nichols.

TEMPERANCE—E. L. Nicholson, William Black, Duff Knight.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—T. P. Vanderver, R. F. Vines, J. M. Snow.

EDUCATION—W. D. Riley. F. M. Vines, J. V. Salter.

DECEASED MEMBERS—C. B. Hood, D. Skelton, B. M. Salter.

INDIGENT MEMBERS—D G. Knight, W. A. J. McClain, W. G. Tuggle.

EXAMINATION OF ASSOCIATIONAL BOOK—J. V. Salter, C. B. Hood, P. S. Hammonds.

The Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Abstract of Principles were read by W. D. Riley.

Returned correspondence as follows:

To Birmingham Association: T. P. Vanderver, J. N. McFalls, E. L. Nicholson.

To Clear Creek: A. White, W. G. Tuggle, William Black.

To Harmony: J. N. McFalls, E. L. Nicholson, S. P. Hammonds.

To North River: T. P. Vanderver, William Black, A. White.

To Mt. Moriah: William C. Howton.

To Mineral Springs: E. Hicks.

After prayer by W. R. Iva, adjourned until Saturday morning at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING.

House was called to order by Moderator. After singing hymn No. 548 in Baptist Psalmody, the 14th chapter of John was read. After prayer by the Moderator, the reports of the various committees were called for.

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee, on Documents, after examining the letters from the various churches, find only three requests for the next session, that of Concord, Mud Creek and Rock Creek.

P. S. HAMMONDS, Chairman.

NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, find a request from Rock Creek, Concord and Mud Creek Churches. We recommend that the next session be held with Rock Creek Church, also that the Introductory Sermon be preached by J. H. Mauldin, the Missionary Sermon by E. L. Nicholson. Rock Creek Church is twelve miles west of Bessemer. Also that the Association convenes on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1895.

S. B. SANFORD, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, have received from the different churches the following : For Minutes, $10.30 ; for Association purposes, $7.70.

W. D. RILEY, Chairman.

HOME MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Home Missions, submit the following : We recommend that we, as a body of Christians here in the world, were commissioned by our Savior to teach the gospel plan of salvation. We believe that it is the duty of every one to contribute to the support of the gospel freely, and to do all he can reasonably to have the same preached to all people.

JOHN KNIGHT, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance reports as follows : We admit that there is too much drinking in our land. But we spend too much time in telling it instead of providing a remedy. Intemperance does not consist altogether in drinking, but we will look at it in that light in our report. The use of intoxicating drinks is a dreaded, crying sin in our land today, and calls for the power and influence of God's people against it. Oh, brethren, drinking is an enemy to everything that is good and sacred. It not only ruins the character, but it ruins the souls of our children.

There are thousands of souls being led to hell every day by the use of intoxicating drinks.

How will we find relief ? Only by total abstinence, and we appeal to you for help. It is our duty to teach by example, as well as by word. If every Christian in Alabama would quit at once we would have a remedy that would be felt all over our land. But as long as Christians set the example the world of sinners will follow. The word of God forbids it, and nature does not need it. So in drinking we disobey God and break the law of nature, and come under condemnation. No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God. We close by making a grand appeal to every Christian to stop drinking, and we respectfully call your attention to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, whose motto is, " For God, home and native land; " also, that we recommend to our ministers and leading brethren to study the word of God, instead of the law, for their weapon.

E. L. NICHOLSON, Chairman.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following:

We see that there is but little said in regard to Sabbath schools in the associational letters. We fear that there is a great neglect among the churches in regard to this important work.

Knowing as we do, the Sabbath school work being so much needed in

our churches, in order to teach the word of God to the young people of our country, that they may have their minds more enlightened in the ways of righteousness, and knowing as we do, the Sunday school being the forerunner of the churches, preparing the people by teaching them the word of God, that they may make better Christians and better workers for the Master's cause, therefore, dear brethren, let us, as older people and as leaders of families, as parents of children, who have souls to be saved or lost, go to work, organize Sabbath schools, take our children by the hand and say to them, "Come, go with us and we will do thee good." And we would advise the members of this body to impress upon their churches the necessity of teaching the word of God to the young people of the land, for the time will come when they must take our places, and by proper care and instructions they will be useful men and women in doing good, and will go forth conquering in Jesus' name. Hoping all will give the above a careful thought, we leave it in the hands of God.

T. P. VANDERVER, Chairman.

After singing hymn No. 435 in Baptist psalmody, prayer by Elder E. B. Waldrop, adjourned one hour for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

The house was called to order by singing hymn No. 641 in Baptist psalmody.

Prayer by J. C. Gilmer, after which proceeded to hear the report of various committees.

EDUCATION.

We, your Committee on Education, submit the following:

We recommend the adoption of last year's report, and urge the several churches of this Association to carefully examine the same.

W. D. RILEY, Chairman.

REPORT OF LAST YEAR.

We, your Committee on Education, report that there is a greater necessity for the educating of the young and rising generation of our land than there has ever been.

The rapid development of our country has brought and still continues to bring evil influences, against which we cannot successfully contend without preparing our minds for the same. We should all work together as one strong and organized body to establish a better and stronger system of schools in our midst, so we may make home more interesting to the boys and girls of our country, that they may have the privilege of attending the very best of schools at home. We should have special regard to the employing of teachers of good, moral and Christian charac-

ter, who will exert the utmost of their ability at all times to improve the education and morals of their pupils, and who will do all they can to point the young and tender minds of the youth to the ways of righteousness.

We should always guard against the employment of teachers who are simply teaching for employment or for the money there is in the profession, and who have no regard whatever for the welfare of the pupil.

We should also do all in our power to promote the educating of the orphan children of our land. We should also guard their young and tender minds against follies and fashions and styles, as the teacher occupies the place of the parents. We sincerely hope that the time is close at hand when teachers who don't realize the position they occupy may be set aside and their places filled by active, energetic men and women who will go forth in the discharge of their whole duty. We also believe in educating the young ministers of our land, so they may be enabled to preach the gospel with a better understanding.

We take pleasure in recommending to this body Howard College, a Baptist institution, situated at East Lake.

J. V. SALTER, Chairman.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, submit the following: We find, by examining the letters from the various churches, there have been several deaths since our last session: Freewill, Brother B. Quinn; Hopewell, Brother Thomas White, Sister Cintha Maddox; Liberty, Sister Sarah McMickens; Mount Ida, Sister Alice Vines.

C. B. HOOD, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON INDIGENT MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Indigent Members, do find one of our beloved brothers who is unable to work, and stands in need of help, to-wit: that of Brother Thomas Burchfield and family; also that of one of our sisters, to-wit: that of Sister M. J. White and family. We also recommend that this Association lend a helping hand.

D. S. KNIGHT, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION OF ASSOCIATIONAL BOOK.

We, your Committee on Examination of Associational Book, beg leave to report: We have examined the book carefully, and find it to be correct.

J. V. SALTER, Chairman.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

Received of Finance Committee for Minute Funds	$10 30
For Associational purposes	7 70
Total	$18 00

Paid to Clerk $5.00 for his services, to the Moderator the remainder of Associational fund.

JOHN KNIGHT, Treasurer.

Resolved, That the Clerk apply all the Minute funds to the printing of Minutes, with one blank letter to each church.

Resolved, That the Clerk be allowed $5.00 for his services, the Moderator the balance of the Associational fund.

Resolved, That we tender a vote of thanks to the good people of Liberty Church for the kind and hospitable manner in which they entertained us during our stay with them.

Resolved, That we take up a collection Sunday at 11 o'clock for the benefit of those reported to be in distress.

After prayer by E. B. Waldrop, the body adjourned to meet Sunday morning at 9 o'clock for the purpose of singing, to be led by A. J. Sumners and W. D. Riley.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Services began Sunday morning. First lesson led by A. J. Sumners in Christian Harmony. Thirty minutes after ten minutes intermission W. D. Riley led a lesson of thirty minutes in Zion's March.

After ten minutes intermission, by request, the Missionary Sermon was preached by J. C. Gilmer, followed by J. N. McFalls. Text found in 16th chapter of St. Mark, 15th and 16th verses, read as follows: "And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned."

After services a collection was taken up for indigent members, to-wit: Bro. Thomas Burchfield and Sister Mary Jane White; received $9.70, which sum was divided equally between the two members reported to be in need of help.

After prayer by James Mauldin, the body adjourned to meet with Rock Creek Church on Thursday before third Sunday in October, 1895.

A. WHITE, Moderator,
J. V. SALTER, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Association.

ART. 2. It shall be formed of delegates from all the churches which may connect themselves with this body.

ART. 3. Any church may be admitted into this body by general consent of the members present at any regular session.

ART. 4. Any church may withdraw from this body at her own discretion, on proper application of dismission.

ART. 5. This body shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered as an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal affairs.

ART. 6. The churches in the union shall transmit each annual session of the Association with a written communication specifying the names of their messengers, and the state of their churches since last session.

ART. 7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates. Any church failing to represent herself as above described, shall state her reason at the next session.

ART. 8. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 9. The Association when convening shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend according to her own views.

ART. 10. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be chosen by and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that all the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to make proper and correct minutes of the Association.

ART. 11. The Association shall have power to drop from her union any church which may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

ART. 12. The Association shall furnish the churches with minutes according to the funds sent up for said purpose by the churches.

ART. 13. Queries that immediately concern the union of the churches, or introduced by a proper motion of the body, may be taken up and decided by this body.

ART. 14. The Association shall have a Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys from the hands of the Finance Committee, and pay it out at the order of the Association.

ART. 15. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the minutes of every annual session shall be recorded.

ART. 16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand, unless it be in extraordinary cases.

ART. 17. Minutes of Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, if necessary, before the session rises.

ART. 18. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members may deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ART. 2. The Moderator shall be deemed a judge of order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time; also, it shall be his duty to see that the rules of decorum are attended, and to take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before the body.

ART. 3. Any member not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the same day that the decision is made, but at no other time.

ART. 4. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a true record of the transactions of the Association.

ART. 5. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator.

ART. 6. The Moderator, when addressed for leave of speech, shall signify the same by naming them or otherwise.

ART. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under consideration, or use words of personal reflection, or with a view of calling to order for some particular purpose and any motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless withdrawn by him who made it.

ART. 8. Every case taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall put the question, and, if necessary, the sense of the body may be taken by rising to their feet.

ART. 9. When anything is taken up by the Association it shall first be decided upon before another is proposed.

ART. 10. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the same.

ART. 11. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address to each other.

ART. 12. The names of the members shall be called as often as necessary.

ART. 13. No person shall be indulged in any practice that has a tendency to interrupt in any time of public speech, or other practices that would dishonor the Association.

ART. 14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speech as others, provided he appoint some member to take his seat while he is speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he shall give the casting vote.

ART. 15. No member of this body shall be permitted to speak more than twice on the same subject, without first obtaining leave of the Association, unless to explain.

ART. 16. Any person breaking the Rules of Decorum shall be reproved at the discretion of the Moderator, but only on the day the breach is made.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three in one.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

4. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by his own free will and holiness.

5. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of truth.

6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the merits of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe the Saints will preserve in grace and not finally fall away.

8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only proper subjects, and do conscientiously believe that the true mode of Baptism is immersion.

9. We believe in the resurrection and general judgment.

10. We believe the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as have been called of God, and regularly baptized and approved by the church, and come under the imposition of hand by presbytery.

12. We believe that none but believers have a right to the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

STATISTICAL TABLE MUD CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Baptized.	Dismissed.	Expelled.	Restored.	Died.	Total membership.	Minute funds.	Associational funds.	Received by letter.
Freewill	A. White	Quinton	W. G. Tuggle, C. B Hood, W. G. T. Hood	8	..	2	..	1	63	$ 50	$1 00	17
Mt. Ida	A. White	Wilmington	A. P. Waldrop,* John Perry,* J. H. Knight	..	2	..	1	..	32	75	75	6
Smithville	A. J. Batson	Toadvine	J. H. Snow,* J. Franklin, R. L. Smith	..	..	..	..	..	26	60	50	2
Laodocia	T. P. Vanderver	Palos	T. P. Vanderver, H. M. Nichols, W. J. Youngblood	..	11	..	..	..	29	25	50	..
Pleasant Springs	T. P. Vanderver	Pilot	L. M. Busby, D. Short, J. Key*	..	..	..	..	..	25	50	25	..
Oak Grove	J. N. McFalls	Ezra	T. G. Franklin,* J. H. Wright, J. N. McFalls	..	..	1	..	..	77	1 25	..	..
Pleasant Hill	T. P. Vanderver	Toadvine	H. T. Vines, J. J. Hood, B. Salter	..	..	..	..	..	30	65	..	..
Union Grove	T. P. Vanderver	Cardova	Wm. Black, F. M. Rerd, J. M. Rerd*	2	..	..	1	..	32	75	85	2
Rock Creek	E. L. Nicholson	Toadvine	W. A. J. McClain, W. D. Riley	..	1	3	..	..	73	1 15	1 00	..
Hopewell	A. White	Toadvine	A. White, J. M. Snow, J. B. Sanford	..	4	1	..	2	60	1 00	50	3
Concord	J. N. McFalls	Earnest	F. M. Paign,* R. T. Vines, D. G. Knight	2	7	1	..	1	55	50	50	2
Liberty	A. White	Short Creek	J. V. Salter, Jesse Cheek, F. M. Vines	..	..	..	..	..	94	75	75	3
New Bethel	H. A. Key	Palos	D. F. Skelton, J. C. Hood, L. B. Hood	..	2	..	..	..	30	65	60	2
Mud Creek	J. N. McFalls	Rasburgh	P. S. Hammonds, W. C. Howton, S. H. Parsons*	2	1	..	..	..	78	1 10	50	5
				14	28	8	2	3	704	$10 30	$7 70	42

*Absentees are marked thus.

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